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LETTER DATED 12 SEPTEMBER 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In conjunction with the letter of 9 September 1994 that was forwarded to the Security Council by this Mission regarding the attack on the "safe area"/"exclusion zone" of Bihac, we would like to address this further communication to the Security Council at the request of the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

While the "safe area"/"exclusion zone" of Bihac was being attacked, the Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) for the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina Lieutenant General Michael Rose, visited with the President of the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, H.E. Alija Izetbegovic. We were dismayed to hear General Rose propose that the "exclusion zone" of Bihac would be defined as a radius 3 kilometres from the city centre itself when actually the entire Bihac region safe area is much larger (25 kilometres by 25 kilometres). In fact, most of the civilian population of the Bihac region, well in excess of 100,000, would be beyond the "exclusion zone" that General Rose proposed.

We must register with the Security Council our deep protest to this proposal because: (a) it is inconsistent with "safe area" resolutions 824 (1993) and 836 (1993) and effectively undermines their purpose; (b) the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) "exclusion zone" concept is born out of resolutions 824 (1993) and 836 (1993) and therefore should not be inconsistent with these enabling resolutions, which define the protected zone as "Bihac and the surrounding area"; and (c) most of the civilian population that is intended to be protected is outside the zone as proposed by General Rose. (This, in effect, would be inviting the Serbian forces to attack and plunder civilian areas up to the 3-kilometre boundary.)

We request that the Security Council take the necessary steps to ensure that the word and spirit of its resolutions are not undermined, especially with the consequent threat to civilian life.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Permanent Representative